

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 INT-05 EB-07 FEA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 MC-02

ACDA-07 SSO-00 /095 W
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R 231315Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1286

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 7711

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, KE, UG, SO

SUBJECT: KENYAN CONCERN OVER MOMBASA VULNERABILITY

1. DURING KENYA NAVY FUNCTION JULY 22 HONORING OFFICERS OF VISITING USS CAPODANNO, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT "EMERGENCY MEETING" HAD BEEN CONVENED MORNING OF JULY 22 BY COAST PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER MAHIHU, WHO IS SENIOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN MOMBASA AND ENJOYS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH KENYATTA. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS MOMBASA'S VULNERABILITY TO UGANDAN ATTACK OR UGANDAN-INSPIRED SABOTAGE.

2. OFFICIALS PRESENT AT MEETING AGREED THAT OIL REFINERY WAS MOST TEMPTING TARGET IN MOMBASA. THEY FELT IT WAS VULNERABLE TO SABOTAGE, AND RECENT ROUND-UPS OF
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ALIENS IN MOMBASA AREA ARE PRIMARILY AIMED AT REDUCING

INTERNAL SECURITY RISKS IN THE AREA. WITH RESPECT TO AMIN'S BOAST THAT AIRCRAFT COULD REACH EVEN AS FAR AS MOMBASA, KENYANS BELIEVE THAT 700-MILE DISTANCE FROM ENTEBBE TO MOMBASA IS WITHIN RANGE OF MIRAGE OR POSSIBLY MIG IF PLANES COULD RECOVER AT KISMAYU, SOMALIA. IF PLANES COULD TAKE OFF AND RECOVER FROM KISMAYU, RISK WOULD BE EVEN GREATER. CONCLUSION OF MEETING WAS THAT KENYA HAS POOR ABILITY TO DETECT OR INTERCEPT AN AIR ATTACK ON MOMBASA.

3. POLICE DOCUMENT CHECKS ON MAIN HIGHWAY INTO MOMBASA WERE BEING CONDUCTED JULY 22, A SIGN OF EXTRA INTERNAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.
MARSHALL

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NNN

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